

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1960.



Report presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Health Inspector
Hertford Rural District.

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REPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1960.

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1960.

P R E F A C E

Madam Chairman, Mrs. Tabor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of Hertford Rural District for the year 1960.

This has been another very healthy year with little in the way of serious infections. The incidence of measles however, was a little higher than had been forecast in a year in which the number was expected to be low. 62 cases occurred out of a total of 84 infectious diseases notified. This leaves a fairly average and satisfactory overall figure for the other infections.

As can be expected in a healthy rural area we are a long lived community, most deaths occurring over the age of 70. Heart disease takes the highest toll accounting for 32% of the total, half of these being coronary thrombosis. This disease is usually more prevalent in males but in this area there have been more cases occurring in women. Cancer accounts for the majority of the remaining deaths or for 21% of the total.

The campaign against poliomyelitis has continued and there have been no cases in this area, indeed there were only three in Hertfordshire as a whole. The occurrence of some small outbreaks of diphtheria in other counties has reawakened parents to the need for prophylactic injections against this disease and considerable propaganda has been carried out to stimulate this. The need for this encouragement still persists.

I should like to thank your Council for all their willing assistance during the Year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. CRAWLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. J. E. Crawley.

Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health.

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., BCh., D.P.H.

HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Senior Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H. E. GILBY.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Health Inspector. J. R. HOWE.

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.

Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Department.

Council Offices,
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
HERTFORD, Herts.

Telephone :- Hertford 3007 (2 lines).

Clerical Duties in the Health Department were carried out by
Mrs. I. M. Ball, Mrs. R. E. Swallow and Mrs. K. W. Everett.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Public Health Matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee
the Chairman of which for the Session 1960/61 was Councillor The Rev.
Canon S. Bradney.

Sub-Standard housing was dealt with by the Housing Maintenance and
Improvements Committee the Chairman of which for the Session 1960/61 was
Councillor Mr. C. J. Tucker.

S E C T I O N A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1960.

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1959 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District :-

Registrar General's

Estimate ... 9,450 (9,300)

Natural Increase or decrease +69

Migration in or out +81

Total Increase or decrease +150

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres 31,746.

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books :

3,396 3,298

Number of Houses per acre 0.10

Number of Persons per acre 0.20

Number of Persons per house 2.08

Rateable Value of District £96,599.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £406.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1960.

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1959 are shown in brackets)

BIRTHS.

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16.19 (13.98)

Area Comparability Factor for Births ... 1.01 (1.01)

<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Total:</u>	77	76	153
Legitimate	75	75	150
Illegitimate	2	1	3
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	3	2	5

DEATHS.

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 9.94 (8.49)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 1.03 (1.01)

<u>Number of Deaths.</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>All Ages - Total:</u>	48	48	96
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1yr.</u>	1	0	1
<u>No. under 4 weeks of age</u>	1	0	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births. 14.2 (30.8)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1960:-

Age group in years.

<u>Disease</u>				<u>Total all ages.</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Scarlet Fever				6	0	2	4	0	0	0
Whooping Cough				10	2	1	6	1	0	0
Measles				62	0	17	45	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia... ..				6	0	0	0	0	6	6
Erysipelas				0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Incidence of Diseases during the different Months.

<u>Disease</u>								<u>Month and Number of Cases.</u>
Scarlet Fever								January (1) February (1) May (1) June (1) August (1).
Whooping Cough								July (3) September (7).
Measles								January (3) February (4) March (19) April (2) May (6) October (25) November (2) December (1).
Acute Pneumonia								January (2) February (4).
Erysipelas								NIL.

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1960:-

<u>Parish.</u>								<u>Disease and Number of Cases.</u>
Aston								Measles (4) Whooping Cough (2).
Bayford								NIL.
Benington								Measles (1) Ac. Pneumonia (1).
Bramfield								Measles (2).
Bengeo Rural								NIL.
Brickendon								Measles (3) Scarlet Fever (1).
Datchworth								Measles (4) Scarlet Fever (2).
Hertingfordbury								Measles (2).
Little Amwell								Whooping Cough (1).
Little Berkhamsted								NIL.
Sacombe								Measles (1) Scarlet Fever (1) Ac. Pneumonia (1).
Stapleford								Whooping Cough (7) Ac. Pneumonia (2)
Tewin								Measles (17) Scarlet Fever (1).
Walkern								Measles (26).
Watton-at-Stone								Measles (2) Scarlet Fever (1) Ac. Pneumonia (2).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc., during 1960.

The Year commenced with 57 names upon the Tuberculosis Register :-

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>
<u>Males</u>	24	5
<u>Females</u>	22	6

Two New Cases were notified for the first time,

<u>Males</u>	2	0
<u>Females</u>	0	0

There was one Inward Transfer from another area,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	1	0

One patient died,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	1	0

One patient left the District (Outward Transfers)

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	1	0

No patients were pronounced CURED,

<u>Males</u>	0	0
<u>Females</u>	0	0

The year therefore ended with 58 cases on the Register :-

<u>Males</u>	26	5
<u>Females</u>	21	6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1960.

<u>Line No.</u>		M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	50	48
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11.	" " lung, bronchus	2	2
12.	" " breast	0	2
13.	" " uterus	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	2
16.	Diabetes	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	9
19.	Other heart disease	5	2
20.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	4
22.	Influenza	0	1
23.	Pneumonia	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	0
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
34.	All other accidents	1	0
35.	Suicide	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	3	2
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	0
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age... ..	1	0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR HERTFORD RURAL.

Laboratory Service.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, Herts.

County Council Health Services.

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946 are available in the District. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses :	4.	Welfare Centres :	7.
		Mobile Clinics :	2.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, and Poliomyelitis Immunisations.

Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

B.C.G. is also available to all children aged 13.

Home and Domestic Help.

Applications for this service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plane, Hertford. (Telephone : Hertford 3232).

A charge may be made for this service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care.

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established at the Durrant Hall, Mill Bridge, Hertford but will shortly be at the Health centre at Bull Plain, Hertford.

A charge may be made for both the above services.

Chiropody Service.

A chiropody service is given by Mr. Parkin, at reduced costs for handicapped people, expectant mothers and old people, at The Wash and at 14, The Arcade, Hertford by appointment.

Ambulance Service.

There is an Ambulance Station at Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 2222). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Day Nurseries.

There is no Day Nursery in the Hertford Rural District.

Mental Health.

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. MEDHURST, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Telephone: Ware 541.)

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been well established in Hertford.

Hospital Services.

The Hertford Rural District is served chiefly by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford and by the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

These hospitals are managed by the Hertford Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Luton & Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee, within the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Practitioner Medical Services.

One General Practitioner resides and practises in the District, but the area is also served by Practitioners from adjoining localities.

Dental Service.

Dental Practitioners are available in adjoining towns and school dental clinics.

Other Services.

There is a Club for Old People at Hertford Heath; there are also several Old People's Clubs in adjoining areas. Womens Institutes are active in 12 centres of the District.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA -

REPORT OF THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1960.

Introduction.

The steady increase in the standard of living has continued to reflect on the general standard of environmental hygiene in the District, which, with one or two exceptions continues to be of a satisfactory standard.

Water Supplies.

During the year under review the Council's water undertaking was taken over by the Lee Valley Water Company and the Council's responsibility in this direction therefore ceased. Water samples are however regularly taken for Laboratory examination to ensure that the mains water supply continues to be of satisfactory bacteriological standard.

The Council have continued their policy of contributing towards the cost of providing a mains supply of water to isolated properties and during the year assistance was given towards the cost of affording a mains supply of water at a further three more properties.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Completion of the Watton-at-Stone Sewerage contract enabled the Council to embark on a scheme for closet conversions in this Parish. Work commenced on the provision of water closets to approximately 45 properties during the year under review; the scheme having been prepared by the Council's Staff on behalf of the property owner and work executed by private Contractor.

Cesspool Emptying.

The demand for the cesspool emptying service continues relatively unchanged and in pursuance of the Council's policy all cesspool contents are discharged into main sewers. The furtherance of this policy has increased considerably the length of haul to disposal point for cesspool contents but notwithstanding this the service has operated satisfactorily without undue pressure giving a reasonably prompt service.

The Council continue to persue their policy of providing main drainage wherever possible and during the year work on the Tewin scheme commenced. When this scheme is completed a very great many problems relating to cesspool clearance should be resolved although a disturbing feature of the Council's policy re the provision of main drainage is the number of houses with a sewer available the owners of which still rely on the previous disposal arrangements by septic tank or cesspool.

Refuse Collection.

The fortnightly collection continues although the Council decided during the year under review to increase the service to one collection every 10 days. Later in the year because of heavy financial commitments this decision was reversed and the fortnightly collection will continue.

The number of houses from which refuse was collected increased by 84 but owing to Green Belt restrictions on development, most of these properties were additions to Council Estates where collections were arranged without difficulty.

Food & Drugs Act.

At the end of the year the Milk Licences and Regulations became the responsibility of the County Council and the one licensed slaughter house ceased to operate and the license was not renewed.

Poultry Slaughter House and Cold Store.

During the year regular visits were paid to the one Poultry Slaughter House in the District and generally speaking conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Development of Undertaking and Services.

The following Tables indicate the growth of the District and the increase in the demand for the Council's services.

SERVICE	31st MARCH, 1952.		YEAR ENDING 1960.	
	No.	Datum.	No.	% Datum.
No. of Houses.	2562	100	3149	122.94
<u>WATER</u>				
Houses with mains supply	2152	100	3080	-
<u>MAIN SEWERAGE</u>				
Houses connected	980	-	1804	183.0
Staff engaged	4.18	-	2.38	56.73
<u>CESSPOOL EMPTYING</u>				
Houses with cesspools	1155	100	1030	89.15
Loads of sewage removed	824	100	922	111.6
Staff engaged	2.4	100	2.59	107.5
<u>REFUSE COLLECTION</u>				
Houses served	2552	100	3143	123.2
Staff engaged	3.27	100	5.59	171.1

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY HEALTH INSPECTOR.

During the Year 1960.

Factories Act	18
Food and Drugs Act:	
Food Premises	116
Housing Acts:	
Inspections and interviews	231
Improvement Grants	328

Summary of Visits by Health Inspector (cont).

Public Health Acts:

Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	628
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Petrol Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150

Total ... 1,664

HOUSING ACTS.

The enormous pressure to purchase houses by people resident outside the District has resulted in greatly increased prices being paid for available properties. This has been reflected in the amount of repair and improvement work carried out to substandard properties, very many of which had been sold with vacant possession and subsequently improved to a standard previously thought unlikely. At the same time Improvement Grants and Standard Grants totalling £9,320 were made by the Council to assist property owners in the restoration and improvement of old properties.

The number of houses involved was 41.

Substandard Properties.

During the year good progress was made towards eliminating all unsatisfactory dwellings as shown in the following table.

Demolition Orders made	2	(Total since 1955 - 146)
Reconditioning proposals accepted	1	
Reconditioning completed	0	
Houses demolished	5	
Total visits made in connection) with surveys, demolition orders) and housing repairs was :-	231	

Housing progress.

The following table shows the progress which has been made with new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925).

	<u>During 1960.</u>	<u>Since 1945.</u>
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwellings erected	47	391
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	-	2
Repairs to war-damaged houses	-	31
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	33
BY LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY		
New dwellings erected	19	587
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	-	-
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-	-

Housing progress (cont.)

	<u>During 1960.</u>	<u>Since 1945.</u>
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc).	-	7
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ON 31st MARCH, 1961.		
Council Houses	970	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	0	
Sundries	0	

Public Health Act, 1936.

The public reaction to a Public Health nuisance continues to be such that although a number of Public Health nuisances were investigated during the year they were abated without resource to statutory action.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The treatment of sewers and arrangement for dealing with rat infestation at private properties continues to be dealt with by the Council's staff and no serious problems have been located in the year under review.